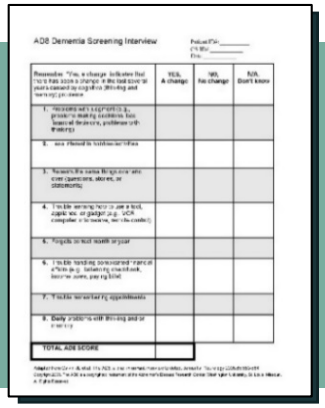
Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementia and American Indians and Alaska Natives

ADRD AND NATIVE PEOPLE

570,000 American Indian and Alaska Native people 65 years or older live in the United States. By 2050, this number will likely triple in size. About 1 in 3 Native elders will be diagnosed with dementia during the next 20 years. However, many tribal communities are unaware of the nature, presentation, and extent of Alzheimer's disease and dementia among their older members. Indeed, key signs and symptoms are often mistaken as a part of aging.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities funds our Center of Excellence [U54 MD00050], which focuses on risk, onset, duration of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia among older American Indians and Alaska Natives. Our Center supports 5 Satellite Centers located around the country, all led by Native researchers who ensure Native people of all backgrounds are represented in this work.


AD8 Dementia Screening Interview

	Yes, A change	No, No change	N/A, Don't know
1. Problems with judgment (e.g., problems making decisions, bad financial decisions, problems with thinking)			
2. Less interest in hobbies/activities			
3. Repeats the same things over and over (questions, stories, or statements)			
4. Trouble learning how to use a tool, appliance, or gadget (e.g., VCR, computer, microwave, remote control)			
5. Forgets correct month or year			
6. Trouble handling complicated financial affairs (e.g., balancing checkbook, income taxes, paying bills)			
7. Trouble remembering appointments			
8. Daily problems with thinking and/or memory			
TOTAL AD8 SCORE			

What is the AD8?

The AD8 was developed as a brief instrument to help distinguish between signs of normal aging and mild dementia. It is short, simple, and quick to administer (~3 minutes) and culturally-sensitive. The AD8 contains 8 items that test for memory, orientation, judgment, and function.

The Participants

	Rural	Urban
Male	26%	19%
Female	74%	81%
65-74	80%	71%
75+	20%	29%
Total	39%	61%

Sample of convenience recruited from outreach and engagement activities.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CENTER: RESULTS OF AD8 SCREENING AMONG RURAL AND URBAN PARTICIPANTS

Screening Question (n=158)	Rural		Urban	
	65-74	75+	65-74	75+
Problems with judgment	32%	50%	21%	26%
Less interest in crafts/cultural activities	19%*	50%*	27%	20%
Repeats the same things over again	18%*	56%*	14%	12%
Trouble learning how to use a tool, appliance, or gadget	19%	40%	23%	36%
Forgets correct month or year	10%	20%	10%	13%
Trouble handling complicated financial affairs	13%	27%	9%	21%
Trouble remembering appointments#	16%	44%	10%	26%
Daily problems with thinking/memory#	21%*	78%*	18%	22%
Total number of screening positives	33%	64%	28%	30%

*Significantly different at ≤0.05 by age group within locale
#Significantly different at ≤0.05 by age in combined rural and urban samples

Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health
colorado school of public health
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
IREACH
WE CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO
INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY HEALTH